I write this last Commandant letter for 2021 and can’t say I am not glad this year is about over. It has been a really tough year for me and my family. I have had to say goodbye to four family members, including my wife, and several friends and acquaintances. I am praying that the coming year will be much better for me, my family, the Detachment, and frankly, this country, the way things have been going lately. I am hoping that we can continue to bring in new members, and maybe get the existing members more involved with what we do as a Detachment. As far as December goes though, we were able to get some members together for two Christmas parades in Cleveland and Clayton, we had a total of five Eagle Scouts get their Good Citizenship awards with two more coming in early January, and we had our annual
Christmas dinner and dirty Santa gift exchange. For those of you who were able to go to some or all of the events I thank you and hope to continue to see you at our Detachment events. We have several Department and higher meetings coming to include a National Mid-winter conference in Norfolk in February, a Mid-East Division conference in Durham in June, and a Department Spring membership meeting in Wilkesboro in March. We will also be having elections coming up and will start receiving nominations soon. I close the year out by thanking everyone who has gotten involved with any of our Detachment and Department events and would ask that you all encourage any of our members to follow your lead and to get involved with what we do. I also thank you again for the honor of being the Detachment Commandant. It is a true pleasure to serve again.

Respectfully submitted, Commandant Robert Long

SEMPER FIDELIS

Commandant Robert Long and Sgt-at-Arms William Dunn took advantage of the 75-degree day and played a round of golf at the Neuse River Country Club in Clayton. They were paired with local couple, Carol and Jay Roberts, to complete the foursome. They were very gracious considering they were playing with a couple old Jarheads. Bob and Bill are both originally from Ohio, so playing golf on New Year’s Eve was hard to pass up.

Just a reminder, that the Carry-On Detachment will be hosting a charity golf outing in May at the Pine Hollow Golf Club in Clayton. More info to come and we will need all hands-on deck for assisting with making this a success!

December 3rd, Past Commandant, Bull Durham, joined Bob and Bill for a round of golf at Reedy Creek in Four Oaks. He was also watching the wildlife while Bill was tossing his 8 iron in the lake.
On Saturday, December 11, 2021 – Marine Lewis Rice presented the Eagle Scout Good Citizenship Award to Joseph Harris (left) and Henry Moore (right) at Centenary United Methodist Church of Smithfield. Joseph Brantley Harris (left) is a Senior at SSS High School and the son of Ryan and Marjorie Harris of Smithfield. Brantley’s Eagle Scout project was repairing a ramp for the educational building and creating an outdoor educational area for the Smithfield Rescue Mission.

Henry Griffin Moore (right) is attending UNC Wilmington and is the son of Mayor Andy and Lydia Moore of Smithfield. Griffin’s Eagle Scout project was installing mile markers along the Buffalo Creek Greenway of Smithfield.

Brantley and Griffin have been involved in Scouting since they were 6 years old. They joined Pack 77 as Tiger Cubs. As Cub Scouts they earned the Arrow of Light along with other ranks and badges. After Cub Scouts, they continued in Boy Scouts with Troop 77 of Smithfield. Both young men were nominated and inducted into the Order of the Arrow and are members of the Nayawin Rar Lodge. They attended the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and hiked more than 60 miles on their 12-day adventure. They have enjoyed many adventures as they advanced through the ranks of Boy Scouts. Through Scouting, they have gained life and leadership skills, adopted honorable traits, and formed lasting friendships.
On Saturday, December 18, 2021, the Eagle Scout Good Citizenship Award was presented to Quincy Artis II and Benjamin Compton, of Boy Scout Troop 33, from Commandant Bob Long and Past Cmdt. Devell Durham. Marines Bill Culbertson (left) and Dick Arthur (right) also attended at the Oakland Presbyterian Church.

Quincy Desmond Artis II (Left) the son of Sandra Hunter and Quincy Artis Sr. He is also the bonus son to Lee Hunter. Quincy joined Cub Scout Pack 33, Den 11 as a Bobcat in 2008. While in Cub Scouts he earned his Arrow of Light in Feb of 2013. He crossed over to Boy Scout Troop 33 in March of 2013. He has been an active Scout during his time with Troop 33 serving in different roles such as Quartermaster, Patrol Leader, Scribe, and Librarian. Quincy has also participated in several activities annually while with Troop 33 such as Veteran’s Day Program, Memorial Day, fundraisers, campouts, community service, and hikes.

Throughout his Boy Scout journey, he has earned 36 merit badges, which only 21 being needed to become an Eagle Scout. He completed NYLT, National Youth Leadership Training in 2016. Quincy has also earned other special awards and honors such as being “tapped out” for becoming a member of the Order of the Arrow Nayawin Rar Lodge, the Honor Society for Scouting, in 2016, earning his Mile Swim BSA patch in 2018, receiving The World Conservation Award in 2019, being appointed as part of the Leadership Corps for Troop 33, and receiving a special Leadership Coin, one of the first ones given in Troop 33, which was received for organizing an event for our Troop. Quincy also had the opportunity of being hired as a Staff Member at Camp Tuscarora for summer camp teaching Merit Badge classes and helping man the Trading Post the summer of 2018.

Quincy began his Eagle Scout Project planning in January of 2020. He refurbished an old mail drop box to create a US American Flag Collection Box. The benefit of the box was to serve as a place to collect old and worn US American Flags that need to be retired. His collection box is located at New Bethel Christian Church in Raleigh, where Quincy has been a member during all his youth. He completed his project March of 2020 and had his Eagle Board of Review June of 2020.

Quincy is currently a sophomore at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC. He is studying to receive his bachelor's degree in Biology. Once he receives his bachelor’s, his plan is to attend NC State University College of Veterinary Medicine, in hopes of becoming a veterinarian.

Benjamin Lewis Compton (Right) is the son of Jeff and Vanessa Compton. He joined Cub Scout Pack 33 as a Tiger in 2010 and crossed over to Boy Scout Troop 33 in 2015. He has served as Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Bugler, and Chaplain’s Aide. He has participated in numerous scouting activities through the years including Veteran’s Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, community service projects, finished 38 merit badges and participated in many campouts, fundraisers, summer camps, hikes, and other scouting activities.

In 2017, Ben attended the National Jamboree where he met scouts from across the US and has earned the Triple Crown award, having attended Florida Sea Base in 2018, Northern Tier in Minnesota in 2019, and Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico this past summer, where they hiked more than 75 miles and summited Baldy Mountain at 12,441 feet.

He is a senior at Cleveland High School where he is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Government Association, and is a leader in First Priority (which is a faith-based club), and has been a 3-year member of the Men’s Swim Team. He also played trumpet in the Cleveland High marching and concert bands.

Ben grew up attending Mid-Way Baptist Church and was a member of the Student Leadership Team, served in the Children’s Ministry and is active in the teen ministry. It was at church that Ben learned about the organization he wanted to benefit through his Eagle Project. Ben wanted his Eagle Project to benefit Hand of Hope, a faith-based pregnancy resource center. He completed his Eagle Project in October 2020, leading the effort to provide landscaping services to make their facility an inviting and welcoming place. He had his Eagle Board of Review on December 13, 2020. After high school, Ben will attend college to study business entrepreneurship and plans to own his own business someday.
TOYS FOR TOTS AND CHRISTMAS PARADES

Last load taken to the Reserve Center

Stacks of Toys at Fastlane Motor sports in Benson.

Our Christmas Dinner at Golden Corral

Flowserve Employees with donations to Toys For Tots.

James Lee and SVC Andrew Gould waiting for the Cleveland Fire Department Parade to start.

SVC Andrew Gould and Marine Robert Hambrick leading Commandant Bob Long driving the Toys For Tots train in the Clayton Christmas Parade.
1 January 1944 – Lt-Gen Alexander A. Vandegrift became the 18th Commandant of the Marine Corps relieving Lt-Gen Thomas Holcomb.

9 December 1942 - 1st Marine Division relieved at Guadalcanal and departed for Australia. 2d Marine Division remained.

15 January 1984 - Druze gunners close BIA for three hours with intense 23mm fire on Marine positions east and southeast of the airport. U.S. forces respond with small arms fire, mortars, rockets, tank fire, and naval gunfire from the battleship USS New Jersey and destroyer USS Tattnall. No U.S. casualties.

16 January 1991 – Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm as forces of the allied coalition launched an all-out air assault against targets in Iraq and occupied Kuwait in an effort to liberate Kuwait and enforce the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. Overall, in the theater of operation, there were more than 415,000 U.S. troops and over 265,000 allied troops in the coalition.

20 January 2002 – The crash of a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361 killed two and wounded five others. The Super Stallion, carrying the San Diego-based Marines that were part of the squadron known as the “Flying Tigers,” went down in the rugged mountains near Kabul while on a resupply mission. A mechanical failure was listed as the cause and had prompted officials to consider changes to the aircraft and to flight and maintenance procedures.

30 January - 28 February 1968 - Communist forces launched a countrywide offensive during the Vietnamese Tet holidays. On 30 January, their main force units launched an aborted attack upon Da Nang. Units from the U.S. Army Americal Division would reinforce the 1st Marine Infantry Division at Da Nang. Fighting in the Da Nang sector would continue sporadically until the end of February. Communist offensives also would occur in Hue, Quang Tri City, Hoi An and Quang Ngai City in I Corps.

On Monday, December 6th, (l to r) Past Commandant Devell Durham, Commandant Robert Long and Adjutant/Paymaster Tim Daniel lead the Johnston County Commissioners in the morning Pledge of Allegiance.
CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

RICHARD BINDER

Born: July 26th, 1839 Germany
Died: February 26th, 1912 Philadelphia, Pa
Also known as: Richard Bigle
Action Date: January 13th-15th, 1865
Location: Fort Fisher, North Carolina
Unit: USS Ticonderoga

Citation reads as follows: On board the U.S.S. Ticonderoga during the attacks on Fort Fisher, 24 and 25 December 1864 and 13 to 15 January 1865. Despite heavy return fire by the enemy and the explosion of the 100-pounder Parrott rifle which killed eight men and wounded 12 more, Sgt. Binder, as captain of a gun, performed his duties with skill and courage during the first two days of battle. As his ship again took position on the 13th, he remained steadfast on the Ticonderoga, maintained a well-placed fire upon the batteries onshore, and thereafter, as she materially lessened the power of guns on the mound which had been turned upon our assaulting columns. During this action the flag was planted on one of the strongest fortifications possessed by the rebels.
OUR FALLEN


MURPHY’S LAWS OF COMBAT OPERATIONS

71. THE COMPLEXITY OF A WEAPON IS INVERSELY PROPORTIONAL TO THE IQ OF THE WEAPON’S OPERATOR.

72. FIELD EXPERIENCE IS SOMETHING YOU DON’T GET UNTIL JUST AFTER YOU NEED IT.

73. NO MATTER WHICH WAY YOU HAVE TO MARCH, IT’S ALWAYS UPHILL.

74. IF ENOUGH DATA IS COLLECTED, A BOARD OF INQUIRY CAN PROVE ANYTHING.

75. FOR EVERY ACTION, THERE IS AN EQUAL AND OPPOSITE CRITICISM. (IN BOOT CAMP)

76. AIRSTRIKES ALWAYS OVERSHOOT THE TARGET. ARTILLERY ALWAYS FALLS SHORT.

77. WHEN REVIEWING THE RADIO FREQUENCIES THAT YOU JUST WROTE DOWN, THE MOST IMPORTANT ONES ARE ALWAYS ILLEGIBLE.

78. THOSE WHO HESITATE UNDER FIRE USUALLY DO NOT END UP KIA OR WIA.

79. THE TOUGH PART ABOUT BEING AN OFFICER IS THAT THE TROOPS DON’T KNOW WHAT THEY WANT, BUT THEY KNOW FOR CERTAIN WHAT THEY DON’T WANT.

80. TO STEAL INFORMATION FROM A PERSON IS CALLED PLAGIARISM. TO STEAL INFORMATION FROM THE ENEMY IS CALLED GATHERING INTELLIGENCE.
Please remember, Marines!
Let us help our building host,
American Legion Pou-Parrish Post 332, with collecting pop/beer tabs for the Durham/Wake Ronald McDonald house!

Do it now! Move!